



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 4, 1998

H.R. 4309 **Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on International Relations
on August 6, 1998*

SUMMARY

H.R. 4309 would authorize appropriations for foreign and domestic assistance to victims of torture. CBO estimates that enacting the bill would increase spending subject to appropriation by about \$4 million in 1999 and \$30 million over the 1999-2003 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Because the bill would not affect direct spending and revenues, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no inter-governmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 4309 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 150 (international affairs) and 500 (education, training, employment, and social services).

Foreign Assistance. The bill would authorize appropriations of \$8 million in 1999 and \$10.5 million in 2000 for grants to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and for treatment centers in foreign countries. In addition, the State Department would be required to train consular officers in understanding and interviewing victims of torture and sexual violence. Based on information from the State Department, CBO estimates this requirement would cost less than \$500,000 annually because it would be incorporated as an additional module in existing training rather than requiring stand-alone training.

Domestic Programs. The bill would permit the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants to programs in the United States that provide psychological and physical rehabilitation, social services, and legal services to victims of torture. These grants would also be used to cover the cost of research and training for health care providers who treat victims of torture. H.R. 4309 would authorize appropriations of \$5 million in fiscal year 1999 and \$7.5 million in fiscal year 2000. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates additional discretionary spending of about \$1 million in 1999 and \$12.5 million over the 1999-2003 period.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
FOREIGN ASSISTANCE						
Spending Under Current Law for Foreign Assistance						
Budget Authority ^a	1,461	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	1,325	1,019	373	205	123	95
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	8	11	b	b	b
Estimated Outlays	0	3	6	5	2	1
Spending Under H.R. 4309 for Foreign Assistance						
Authorization Level ^a	1,461	8	11	b	b	b
Estimated Outlays	1,325	1,022	379	210	125	96
DOMESTIC PROGRAMS						
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	5	8	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	1	3	6	3	b
TOTAL PROPOSED CHANGES						
Authorization Level	0	13	18	b	b	b
Estimated Outlays	0	4	9	11	5	1

a. The 1998 level is the amount appropriated for that year.

b. Less than \$500,000.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

The bill contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The bill would authorize appropriations of \$12.5 million over fiscal years 1999 and 2000 for grants to treat torture victims residing in the United States. State and local agencies would be eligible to apply for these grants.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The bill would impose no new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Sunita D'Monte for foreign assistance and Cynthia Dudzinski for domestic programs

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Pepper Santalucia

Impact on the Private Sector: Leslie Frymier

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Paul N. Van de Water
Assistant Director for Budget Analysis